



QUARTERLY

THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

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THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER
Milwaukee County Courthouse
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What's New, Spring 2014

By: Mary Ferwerda

On July 7th, the MJC opened the doors and welcomed clients in the newly remodeled G-9 after spending over 7 months in temporary spaces on the 5th floor of the courthouse. The refreshed MJC offers an increased level of professional client care and is the result of over 5 years of planning and preparation.

Volunteers work with clients at individual work stations, each with their own desktop computer. Privacy screens separate these

stations, and other private spaces are available for clients with more sensitive issues. A shared classroom space will be completed toward the end of summer.

A final component is a designated Children's Area that will be furnished through a grant from the Wisconsin Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Current plans call for a small computer station, whiteboard area, and various books and children's games. ●



Atty. Mary Ferwerda
MJC Legal Director

MJC Returns Home to G-9, Remodeling in Final Phase

By: Justin A. Metzger

It's here! *It's here!* The Milwaukee Justice Center's new clinic space in Room G-9 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse is finished, and open for service!

In November of 2013, the MJC moved to temporary space in Room 511 of the Courthouse, able to service six clients at a time, while hammer met nail (and jackhammer met concrete) in G-9.

And after eight months of nails, jackhammers, paint, mastic, and steel, the MJC's permanent, fourteen-space clinic opened up in G-9 for the first time on July 7, 2014.

"This is a fabulous asset to the people of Milwaukee County," said the Hon. Jeffrey Kremers, District 1 Chief Judge. "I'm very



appreciative of the work of everyone involved."

Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court John Barrett is also pleased with the final result.

"I like the remodel," Barrett said. "Customers of the MJC will get help in a dignified space which affords some privacy when dealing with personal legal

matters...I am grateful to the Milwaukee Bar, the County Board, Marquette University Law School, and the County Executive for making this dream a reality."

Additional thanks go to County, Bar, and Marquette staff and volunteers who kept all the pieces moving, literally and figuratively. ●



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4th Annual MJC5K Run for Justice Brings in Record Numbers

By: Justin A. Metzger



Photos Courtesy: Omar Mallick

“Rain, rain go away...” A rhyme you could have heard in the MJC offices on the day of the Fourth Annual MJC5K Run for Justice. All during the day, it rained, poured, struck lightning, and rolled thunder. However, just a couple hours before the starting gun fired...the rain went away.

Combined with the 75° temperatures and the re-emerged sun, the weather couldn't have been much better for the run. That may be one explanation for the record number of runners, walkers, and volunteers in this year's event. That ultimately led to the greatest fundraising performance in the history of the MJC5K.

In the race, Anthony Holgun took both the overall and men's victory with a 5k completion time of 18:27, while Amanda Beggs (Foley & Lardner) took the women's crown



| MJC5K at a Glance | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Temp: | 75° |
| Runners: | 176 |
| Volunteers: | 25 |
| Sponsors: | 21 |
| \$ Raised: | \$12,000 (approx.) |



with a time of 20:25. In the Kids' 1-mile race, the winner also took the form of a point of pride for the MJC, as Selame Caldart, daughter of MJC executive director Dawn Caldart, crossed the line first with a time of 8:44.

Finally, the Team Spirit award went to the group from Hupy and Abraham. Congratulations to them, and a warm thank you to everyone who volunteered, ran, and otherwise made the MJC5K successful!

With Additional Thanks To:

Big Bay Brewing Co. • Milwaukee Bar Association • Milwaukee County Parks • The Mission River Band • Performance Running Outfitters • Quantum LS

Volunteer Spotlight: Trisha Fritz

Trisha Fritz is a recent graduate from Marquette University Law School who was sold on public interest work from the start. She came into law school wanting to focus on non-profit law, but while at MU, took internships at the State Office of the Public Defender in Milwaukee, giving her an added interest in criminal law as well.

Before law school, Trisha spent two years with AmeriCorps, spending a year in California before coming back to her home in the Fox Cities, spending a year with the Boys & Girls Club in Appleton.

time.

What's been rewarding about your experience at the MJC?

I think it's seeing people happy when you're done helping them, and giving them hope there's something they can do, even if they don't have the money to hire an attorney.

What's been the most challenging thing about volunteering at the MJC?

It's more difficult for people to navigate the courts when they're *pro se*. And when you don't have

without attorneys appear to get railroaded, and I don't think it should be that way. Not everyone can hire an attorney.

What has been your favorite experience so far at the MJC?

In general, my favorite experience is just the atmosphere of volunteering here. I look forward to coming here at 8:30 every morning. And that says something about the other volunteers and supervisors here, their positive attitude. That and I love when a client walks off with a smile on their face.

By: Justin A. Metzger



Trisha Fritz, Attorney at Law

What brought you to the Milwaukee Justice Center?

Angela [Schultz] explained all the volunteer opportunities and it sounded interesting. I kept coming back because you get to actually work with people and interact with them. I feel every time I come here I'm helping someone, and not wasting my volunteer

a lawyer, it's harder to get what you want. Sometimes people



What else should we know about you?

I have a cat named Princessa, and I live in River West. I'm originally from the Fox Cities, from a small town just outside of Appleton. And I did my undergrad at UW-Madison, majoring in history. ●

Q1 2014 By the Numbers

By: Justin A. Metzger

The 'polar vortex' may have been to blame as Milwaukee Justice Center client numbers climbed down to start the year. The clinics saw 9% fewer clients in the first quarter of 2014 than it did in the first quarter of 2013, however, remained 17.4% above our historical average.

However, most of that drop-off came in January, where the bitterly cold temperatures, and endless piles of snow, kept people at home, without regard to what they may have needed.

By the time March rolled around, clients were back in the positive by 1.2%, and 19.8% above our historical average. ●

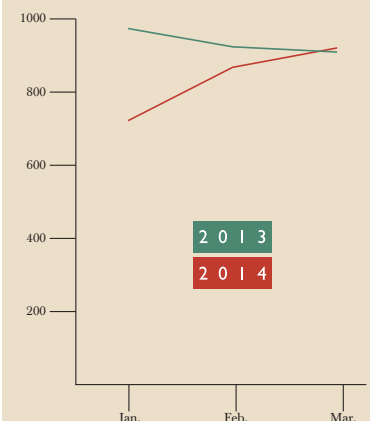
Q1 2014 a Glance...

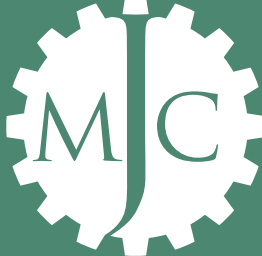
Clients Seen

Q1 2014: 2477

vs. 2013: -9.0%

YTD: -9.0%





MJC Welcomes Omar Mallick as New, Part-Time Attorney Supervisor

By: Justin A. Metzger

Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights,” said Omar. “I found the work to be substantive and, at the same time, challenging, and since then have always thought public interest was work I was drawn to.”

Since returning home, Omar has been doing a combination of criminal defense work via contract from the Wisconsin Office of the Public Defender, and some business and employment law, all under his own shingle. He maintains that work in addition to his responsibilities at the MJC.

“My experience so far at the MJC has been very positive and enriching,” said Omar. “I feel the work and services we provide are vital, and I have been very impressed with the level of professionalism and dedication the staff, attorneys, and volunteers bring.”

Omar is happy to be assisting people on a regular basis, and believes that helping those going through a particularly tough time is especially rewarding.

“Clients come to us often extremely frustrated,” Omar said. “They’re overwhelmed and sometimes emotional as the issues can be very personal. Hearing feedback and gratitude from them is also very rewarding, and helps us get through the day.”

When he’s not in the clinic or helping clients in his private practice, Omar enjoys getting outside and gardening. He’s also a traveler, and says he’s been fortunate enough to have traveled to some interesting places. ●

Omar Mallick comes to the Milwaukee Justice Center from the world of solo practice. Omar will be supervising the MJC clinics on a part-time basis, via the Milwaukee Bar Association.

Omar is originally from Chicago, but grew up in Milwaukee before attending

undergrad at Marquette University, and law school at Hamline University in Minnesota. He stayed in the Twin Cities for a couple years after earning his Juris Doctorate practicing civil rights law before coming home to Milwaukee.

“My first job after law school was working for the

Family Law Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Brief Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Family Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
1:30pm - 3:30pm

MJC Executive Director:

Dawn R. Caldart, J.D.

Legal Director

Mary Ferwerda, J.D.

Attorney Supervisor

Omar Mallick, J.D.

Clerical Specialist:

Janelle Schmidt



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Thank you to all of our
volunteers and supporters!